

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The circulating switch of claim 24 further comprising:

a plurality of module controllers, where each module controller of said plurality of module controllers is associated with a corresponding switch module of said plurality of switch modules; and

a master controller communicatively coupled to said each module controller.

14. (Previously presented) The circulating switch of claim 24 wherein said each temporal cyclical rotator of said array has a predetermined number of input ports and a predetermined number of output ports and wherein each input port of said number of input ports connects to each of said output ports according to a predetermined connectivity matrix defined for a given rotation cycle.

15. (Original) The circulating switch of claim 14 wherein said rotation cycle comprises a number of rotation phases of equal duration and wherein during each of said rotation phases said each input port connects to a respective output port of said number of output ports determined according to rotation connectivity specific to said each temporal cyclic rotator.

16. (Previously presented) The circulating switch of claim 24 wherein said each switch module of said plurality of switch modules is operable to:

receive a succession of data segments;

receive a schedule; and

transmit said data segments according to said schedule.

17. (Previously presented) The circulating switch of claim 13 wherein:

each switch module of said plurality of switch modules organizes data received from data sources into data segments; and

said each module controller associated with said corresponding switch module is operable to communicate identifiers of said data segments to said master controller.

18. (Original) The circulating switch of claim 17 wherein said each module controller associated with said corresponding switch module is further operable to:

send requests to said master controller for scheduling said data segments;

receive a schedule from said master controller for transmitting said data segments; and

cause corresponding switch module to transmit said data segments according to said schedule.

19. (Original) The circulating switch of claim 18 wherein said each master controller is operable to:

receive from at least one module controller requests for scheduling said data segments;

determine a schedule for transmitting said data segments; and  
communicate said schedule to each of said at least one module controller.

20. (Original) The circulating switch of claim 18 wherein said each master controller is operable to:

receive a flow-rate-allocation request from a given switch module among said plurality of switch modules;

allocate a permissible transfer rate in response to said flow-rate-allocation request;

communicate said permissible transfer rate to said given switch module;

determine a data transfer schedule specific to a source switch module and a destination switch module among said plurality of switch modules; and

communicate said data transfer schedule to said source switch module and said destination switch module.

21. (Previously presented) The circulating switch of claim 24 wherein each switch module of said plurality of switch modules comprises one ingress module and one egress module.

22. (Previously presented) The circulating switch of claim 24 wherein at least one temporal cyclical rotator of said plurality of temporal cyclical rotators is programmable for change of cyclic input-output connectivity.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) A circulating switch comprising:

an array of temporal cyclical rotators;

a plurality of switch modules, each switch module being a common-memory switch having a data memory logically divided into:

a first section for storing a first set of data segments received from data sources;

a second section for storing a second set of data segments destined for particular switch modules among said plurality of switch modules, said second section logically divided into a number of sub-sections, each sub-section of said number of sub-sections corresponding to one temporal cyclical rotator among said array of temporal cyclical rotators; and

a third section for storing data segments directly destined for data sinks;

wherein each temporal cyclical rotator of said array has a plurality of inlets and a plurality of outlets, where said plurality of inlets and said plurality of outlets are communicatively connected to said plurality of switch modules and where said each temporal cyclical rotator cyclically connects each switch module of said plurality of switch modules to each other switch module of said plurality of switch modules by cyclically connecting individual inlets among said plurality of inlets to individual outlets among said plurality of outlets.

25. (Original) The circulating switch of claim 24 wherein each of said sub-sections has a storage capacity sufficient to store a data segment for said each switch module of said plurality of switch modules.

26. (Original) The circulating switch of claim 25 wherein said array of temporal cyclical rotators comprises an even number of temporal cyclical rotators arranged in a number of complementary pairs of temporal cyclical rotators and wherein each of said complementary pairs of temporal cyclical rotators includes a clockwise temporal cyclical rotator and a counterclockwise temporal cyclical rotator and wherein:

said clockwise temporal cyclical rotator connects each switch module of said plurality of switch modules to each other switch module of said plurality of switch modules in an ascending sequential order; and

    said counterclockwise temporal cyclical rotator connects each switch module of said plurality of switch modules to each other switch module of said plurality of switch modules in a reverse order of said ascending sequential order.

27. (Original) The circulating switch of claim 26 wherein:

    data segments received at said each common memory switch through said clockwise temporal cyclical rotator are written in a given sub-section of said number of sub-sections, where said given sub-section is associated with said counterclockwise rotator; and

    data segments received at said each common memory switch through said counterclockwise temporal cyclical rotator are written in a particular sub-section of said number of sub-sections, where said particular sub-section is associated with said clockwise rotator.

28. (Original) The circulating switch of claim 25 wherein:

    said array of temporal cyclical rotators comprises a first set of clockwise temporal cyclical rotators and a second set of counterclockwise temporal cyclical rotators;

    and wherein:

    each clockwise temporal cyclical rotator of said first set of clockwise temporal cyclical rotators connects said each switch module to said each other switch module in an ascending sequential order; and

    each counterclockwise temporal cyclical rotators of said second set of counterclockwise temporal cyclical rotators connects said each switch module to

said each other switch module in a reverse order of said ascending sequential order;

and wherein:

an indirect connection from one switch module of said plurality of switch modules to another switch module of said plurality of switch modules traverses one clockwise temporal cyclical rotator of said first set of clockwise temporal cyclical rotators and one counterclockwise temporal cyclical rotator of said counterclockwise temporal cyclical rotators.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A method of switching comprising:

cyclically connecting each switch module belonging to a plurality of switch modules to each other switch module of said plurality of switch modules during at most a specified number of time slots in a time frame having a predefined number of time slots such that, in a given time slot, said each switch module is connected to a subset of said switch modules, said subset comprising a number of switch modules not exceeding said specified number of time slots;

receiving data segments at said each switch module, each of said data segments destined to a specified switch module in said plurality of switch modules; and

sending, from said each switch module to said specified switch module, a number of said data segments such that said number of said data segments does not exceed said specified number of time slots during said time frame;

wherein, at a given switch module of said plurality of switch modules, said receiving further comprises:

writing a first data segment, received from a data source subtending to said given switch module, in a shipping section of a memory device associated with said given switch module;

writing a second data segment, received from one of said switch modules, in a transit section in said memory device; and

writing a third data segment, received from another of said switch modules, in a receiving section in said memory device.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein said sending further comprises:

addressing said first data segment to one of a transit section and a receiving section of a memory device associated with a first switch module in said subset of switch modules, said first switch module specified in said first data segment; and

addressing said second data segment to a receiving section of a memory device associated with a second switch module in said subset of switch modules, said second switch module specified in said second data segment.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 further comprising storing said second data segment in said memory device associated with said given switch module for a period of time not exceeding the duration of said time frame.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising limiting a number of data segments written in said transit section so that the number of data segments having the same destination switch module does not exceed said specified number of time slots.

36. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein said predefined number of time slots is equivalent to a number of switch modules in said plurality of switch modules.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein said predefined number of time slots is in the range of 16 to 1024 and said specified number of time slots is in the range of 2 to 8.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising selecting the time slots in said specified number of time slots to be substantially equidistant from each other along said time frame.

39. (Previously presented) A method of adding a new switch module to a circulating switch having a plurality of switch modules that exchange data segments through an array of temporal cyclical rotators, the method comprising:

scheduling an exchange of said data segments through said temporal cyclical rotators while excluding from consideration a selected one of said temporal cyclical rotators;

extending a rotation configuration of said selected one of said temporal cyclical rotators of said array;

connecting an input port and an output port of said new switch module to said selected one of said temporal cyclical rotators; and

repeating said scheduling, extending and connecting using another selected one of said temporal cyclical rotators.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39 including a further step of exchanging data segments through said selected one of said temporal cyclical rotators following said connecting.